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## Jim Costa Working for fair federal water regulations

Congressman Costa has long contended that federal water regulators are crippling the local economy by diverting water from the Valley in the name of saving fish while all but ignoring the effects of pollutants entering the Delta from as far north as the Bay Area and Sacramento.

He has voted and lobbied for changes, participated in countless meetings and worked constantly with local water users and federal and state officials.

A new University of Maryland study has now given him even more ammunition in his fight to change the official scientific rulings being used as the basis for the water cut-offs crippling the Valley economy.

"The truth is that the dumping of ammonia, nitrates, and sewage into the Delta is having a catastrophic effect on the same fish they are trying to save.

"We are making progress. But we have to keep the pressure on. The stakes for the Valley are too high," Costa says.

**Congressman Jim Costa  
Actively working for more water  
and a better Valley economy**



## Congressman Jim Costa Continuing the fight for Valley water

Dear Valley Resident:

Water is the key to Valley jobs and opportunity. It is literally the lynchpin of our local economy.

That's why increased water supply is my top priority in Congress. And I am pleased to say we are making progress.

Last year, our federal water allocation was 10%. This year, we were slated to get less than that. But after constant pressure from me and many concerned Valley residents, we were able to jump that up to 40% and we are working for more.

Our persistence also helped secure other water gains, including funds to provide drought relief and success in facilitating water transfers.

Our fight is very far from over. But we are seeing progress. Our work is paying off. More water is flowing to our Valley.

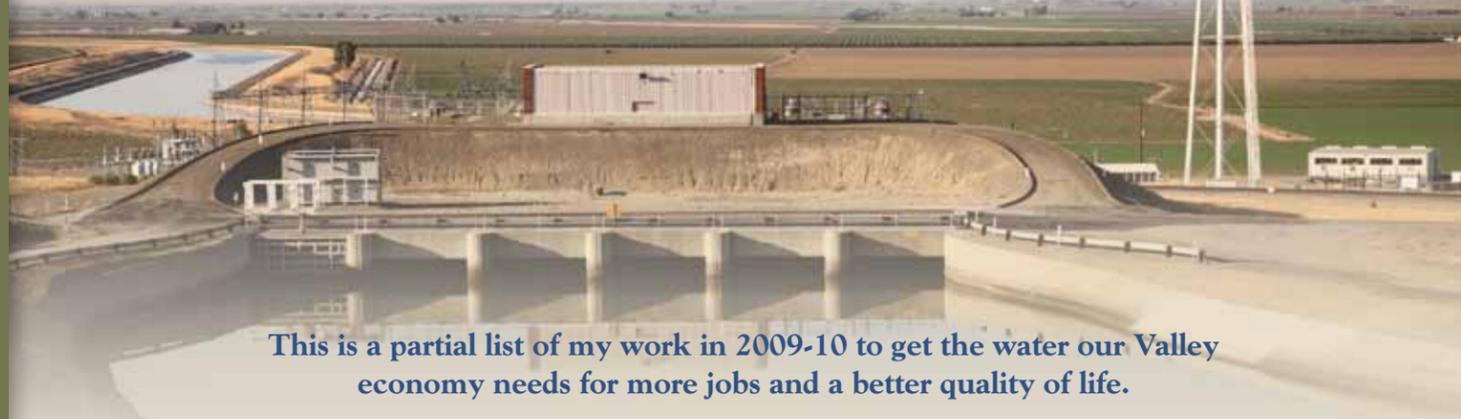
This report covers some of my efforts in Congress to win our fight.

Sincerely,



Congressman Jim Costa

## Congressman Jim Costa Continuing the fight for Valley water



This is a partial list of my work in 2009-10 to get the water our Valley economy needs for more jobs and a better quality of life.

### More Valley Water

Actively working with Interior on actions that have provided for an increased allocation to south of Delta agriculture, totaling up to 198,000 acre feet of water not previously available to the Westside at contracted rates.

### Water Storage And Recharge

Carried legislation to codify the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act. Negotiated conversion of existing contracts to 9d contracts as well as Part III of the Act, which included Friant Division Improvements such as restoration of the capacity of the Friant-Kern Canal and Madera Canal, reverse flow pump back facilities, and construction of local facilities to bank water underground or to recharge groundwater.

### Water Transfer

Helped bring over 200,000 acre-feet of transferred water to the Westside to combat the natural and regulation-induced droughts plaguing our local economy.

### Water Sales / Environmental Reform

Helped create streamlining of environmental requirements making it easier for willing sellers to release water to willing buyers in the Valley using the reconstituted Drought Water Bank.

### Cropping Decision Assistance

Convinced the US Bureau of Reclamation to expedite rescheduling guidelines to accommodate growers' needs to make cropping decisions and obtain financing considerations.

### Drought Relief

Helped get \$32 million in federal funds designated for specific drought projects south of the Delta.

### Working To Keep The Pumps On

Introduced and passed two amendments with Congressman Cardoza to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill: 1) to appropriate an additional \$10 million for the Intertie and/or Two Gates projects and 2) to facilitate transfers throughout the Central Valley that would bring more water.

### Additional Water

Worked on a regular basis with the Bureau of Reclamation on an extensive project list to bring additional water supplies to south of Delta water users. (The project list is available on my website at [www.costa.house.gov](http://www.costa.house.gov)).

### Emergency Relief

Co-sponsored HR 3105 (Nunes) and HR 856 (Radanovich), seeking emergency measures for more water.

### Increased Pumping / Increased Capacity

Successfully pushed for renewal of an Army Corps permit to increase pumping capacity by 500 cfs over the summer at Banks Pumping Plant. This was used to move transfers throughout the Valley and increased export capacity through the federal and state projects. Currently working with federal agencies on a new permit for an additional 500 cfs of capacity.

### Water Storage

Working with Reclamation to explore unprecedented opportunities for using some of New Melones storage for south of the Delta transfers. Yielded an agreement and transfer of 55,000 acre feet from eastside New Melones irrigation contractors to the Westside.

### More Valley Water

Continuing to press the Bureau of Reclamation on a list of projects that could yield more water for the Valley. Regular update calls with Reclamation and Secretary of the Interior to hold them accountable for promised actions and funding.

### Water Transfers

Introduced HR 3750 "Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009" to authorize certain transfers of water in the Central Valley Project where place of use issues have limited transfers being authorized in a timely and appropriate way.

### Endangered Species Reform

Introduced HR 3999 to require the Bureau of Reclamation to re-initiate consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce regarding the existing and proposed operations of the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project, including as described in the Operations Criteria and Plan for the Central Valley Project, California, under section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

### Water Infrastructure

Introduced HR 4225 to provide the Secretary of the Interior the authority to adjust the amount of non-federal funding required for water infrastructure projects in California to help alleviate the economic impacts of the drought.

### Endangered Species Reform

Introduced HR 2977, directing the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive study of sustainable water and environmental management in the Delta. Joined Senator Feinstein's efforts to initiate the National Academy of Sciences study on reviewing the two Biological Opinions. Provided valuable input into the scope of study and attention to the alternate stressors present in the Delta region.

### More Valley Water

Joined Senator Feinstein in drafting legislation which would guarantee approximately a 40% water allocation in an average water year for South of Delta Ag interests for 2 years.

### More Valley Water

Urged the Bureau of Reclamation to reallocate unused stimulus funding of \$20.7 million for construction of the Intertie project, providing as much as 35,000 acre feet of water to the Westside of the Valley.

### More Water / Earlier Announcements

Successfully lobbied the Interior Department to release earlier allocation announcements so growers could plan for cropping decisions and secure financing for upcoming growing season. As a result, Interior bumped up their allocation from 5% to 25% in March and to 40% in May.

### Water Bank

Helped secure Congressional approval of Madera Irrigation District Water Bank, a groundwater facility that will store up to 250,000 acre feet of water for the region.



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